



Eckville Municipal Library

ECKVILLE MUNICIPAL LIBRARY

PLAN OF SERVICE
2026-2030

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Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all patrons and community members who completed our online and paper surveys during our last community needs assessment. Thank you to our volunteer Library Board Members and staff for their time and dedication to the library and creation of this Plan of Service.

A special thank you to our Parkland Library Systems Consultant Librarian, Jessica Dinan, for all the help and guidance through this process.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Town of Eckville and Lacombe County for continuing their support and funding Eckville Municipal Library.

Thank you to the Public Library Services Branch for their continued updates and guidance, and thank you to the Alberta Government for recognizing the vital roles of libraries in the community and how important stable library funding is to provide consistent and quality library service.

Statement of Approval and Accountability

For public libraries in Alberta, planning is mandated. Libraries Regulation, Section 13 states the following:

- (1) In managing and controlling a municipal library, a municipal board shall
 - (a) Within 3 years of being established, develop and file with the Minister a plan of service with a mission statement and goals and objectives based on a needs assessment of the municipality, and
 - (b) Annually review its plan of service.
- (2) A municipal board shall file with the Minister a copy of its current plan of service with goals and objectives not less frequently than every 5 years following the date on which the plan was previously filed with the Minister.¹

The Plan of Service for 2026-2030 has been prepared by the Eckville Municipal Library Board in accordance with Alberta Libraries Regulation AR 141/98.

The Board and staff of the library are committed to implementing this plan of service, reviewing it regularly to monitor progress in achieving goals, and updating the plan as needed.

MOTION:

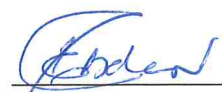
"I motion to adopt the plan of service (2026-2030) for the Eckville Municipal Library."

Motion made by: NAME. Motion seconded by: NAME. Carried.

Date of Board Meeting: *Oct 8, 2025*

Original signed by:

Colleen Ebdon, Chair



¹ Libraries Regulation AR 141/98 s13

Mission

As a friendly community space, Eckville Municipal Library serves Eckville and area, by providing resources to encourage the love of reading, life-long learning, community information, and social connection through programming, collection, and entertainment options for all ages.

Library Profile

History

The Eckville Municipal Library was formed in 1952 and formally established/re-established by Bylaw 442, Town of Eckville in May 1980.

In January 1952, the Eckville Municipal Library opened in Dan Clausen's insurance office. Mr. Clausen managed the library with the help of the Presbyterian Church ladies and Eckville Board of Trade.

The library joined Parkland Regional Library System in 1964. Also in 1964, after the passing of Mr. Clausen, the village relocated the library with the help of local organizations to the main floor of the new Village Office. A local board of directors was formed, and after joining Parkland Regional Library System and receiving a grant for \$40,000 from the County of Lacombe, the new library opened with Mr. Nels Mogensen as Library Manager.

In 1979 the library moved downstairs to the basement of the Town Office which considerably increased the space available. The grand opening for the new facility was held on June 21, 1980. The library remained at this location until 2004.

July 2004, the Eckville Municipal Library moved to the present location at 4855-51 Avenue. The new location provides increased accessibility and a pleasant outdoor space.

Hours

The Eckville Municipal Library is open 4 days a week for a total of 30 hours per week.

Governance

The Eckville Municipal Library is governed by a volunteer board consisting of:

- 2 Town Council
- 6 Community Members at Large (One of these community members is a County Councillor, but is serving in the capacity of a member at large).

Board Members

Colleen Ebdon – Chair

Reidun Staudinger

Dana Kreil

Jacqueline Palm-Fraser

Deborah Gyorl

Lorianne Hoven

Emy McDonnell

Nicola McKinnon

Human Resources

Eckville Municipal Library currently has 3 part-time staff members. Natasha Resta is the current Library Manager.

Community

In 2024, The town of Eckville recorded a population of 1,115 people and is located 24 kilometres West of Sylvan Lake, and 47 kilometres East of Rocky Mountain House. Due to the community residing in Lacombe County and on the border of both Clearwater County and Red Deer County, the library serves residents from the town and various counties.

The Community population is approximately:

- 20% in the age range of 0-14
- 59% in the age range of 15-64
- 21% in the age range of 65+

Partnerships

The library actively partners with many different local agencies. The library works with Family Resource Network, Family and Community Support Services, the Eckville and Area Wellness Coalition, and Eckville Recreation Board to provide quality programming and books to promote literacy, mental health, and well-being of the community.

We provide service to the Eckville Manor House and partner with the Wellness Coalition to provide programs that bring awareness to mental and physical well-being.

We are a part of Parkland Regional Library Systems and belong to the Alberta Public Library Administrators Council and the Library Association of Alberta.

Needs Assessment

The Eckville Municipal Library, with the help of Parkland Regional Library Systems Consultant Librarian Jessica Dinan, ran an online and in-house (paper) survey to assess the strength and weaknesses of the library. It focused on questions regarding desired programs, library hours, and services to help us learn where we can grow and better the community. There were 38 respondents. The results from this needs assessment were reviewed by board members and library staff. This information guided the creation of Eckville Municipal Library's 2026-2030 Plan of Service.

Data from the digital community needs assessment is contained in the report in [Appendix A](#).

2026-2030 Plan of Service

The Plan of Service is reviewed annually and may be modified to adapt to emergent situational changes or to take advantage of innovation or new opportunities and strategic alliances. Detailed action plans and short-term emergent strategies at the operational level are part of library operations and are, therefore, not included in this document.

Goal 1: Satisfy Curiosity: Lifelong Learning:

Residents will have the resources they need to explore topics of personal interest and continue to learn throughout their lives.

Objective 1: The library will continue to update and provide approximately 400 new materials annually that meet community needs. By end of 2026, a physical and virtual suggestion box will be available so patrons can suggest titles they would like to see added to the library's collections.

Objective 2: Informal and formal library user feedback on what materials and programs the community would like to see. This feedback will be collected annually to keep up with the needs and interests of our growing community.

Objective 3: The library will continue to offer programming for all age groups to encourage learning and social engagement (i.e. Early literacy programming), including adding one additional program per age group by the end of 2028.

Goal 2: Community Connection: Fostering Informed and Engaged Citizens:

Residents will have the central source of community information that they need to support democracy, community engagement, connection, and decision-making.

Objective 1: By the end of 2028, feedback will be gathered from community members to find out the best way for community event information to be shared. Successful feedback gathering will result in approximately 30 responses.

Objective 2: - By the end of 2029, the library will collaborate with a minimum of 3 other community groups to create a central information hub that contains all upcoming programs and events around town.

Goal 3: Visit a Comfortable Place: Physical and Virtual Spaces

Residents will have safe and welcoming physical places to meet and interact with others or to sit quietly and read and will have open and accessible virtual spaces that support social networking.

Objective 1- During 2026 and ongoing thereafter, the library will promote its outdoor spaces, to encourage community use of gazebo, yard and garden for events and programs. The library will host at least 2 programs per month in its outdoor spaces during the summer months.

Objective 2- By the end of 2026, an evaluation of the library's indoor spaces by staff and patrons will be completed, with feedback collected by at least 30% of active patrons. Support from Parkland will be sought to assist with space planning to create a more open floor plan, that will be realized by the end of 2030.

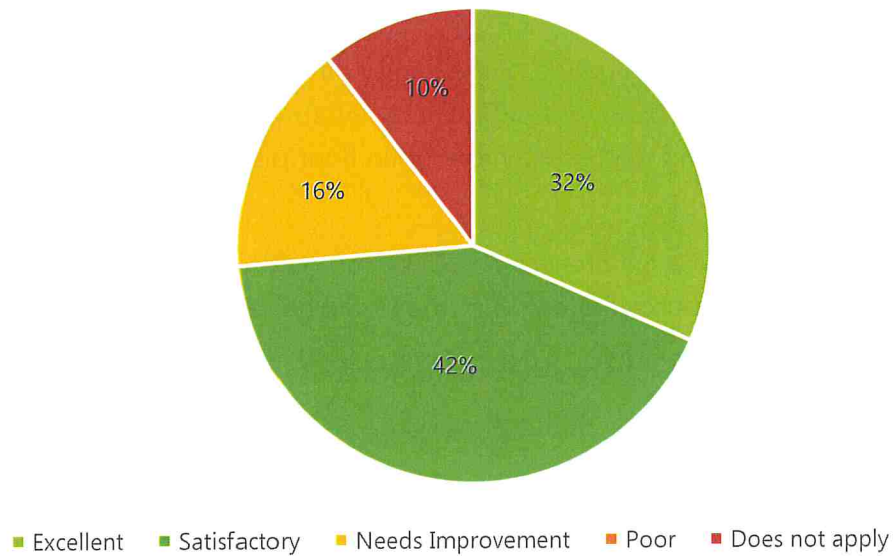
Objective 3- By the end of 2027, the children's area will be reorganized and different seating options to accommodate larger groups, of approximately 15 or more, will be sourced.

Objective 4- By the end of 2030, the library will have improved its outdoor spaces, specifically the grass and picnic area appearance.

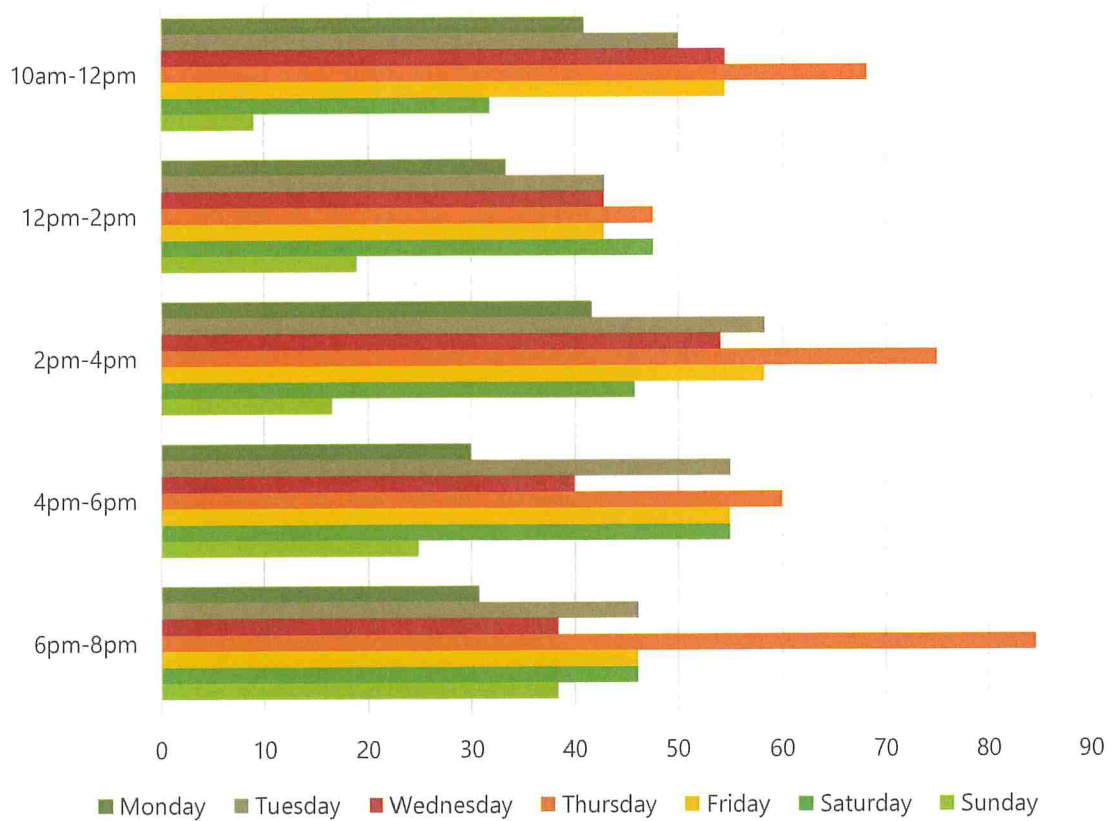
APPENDIX A

Community Needs Assessment Report

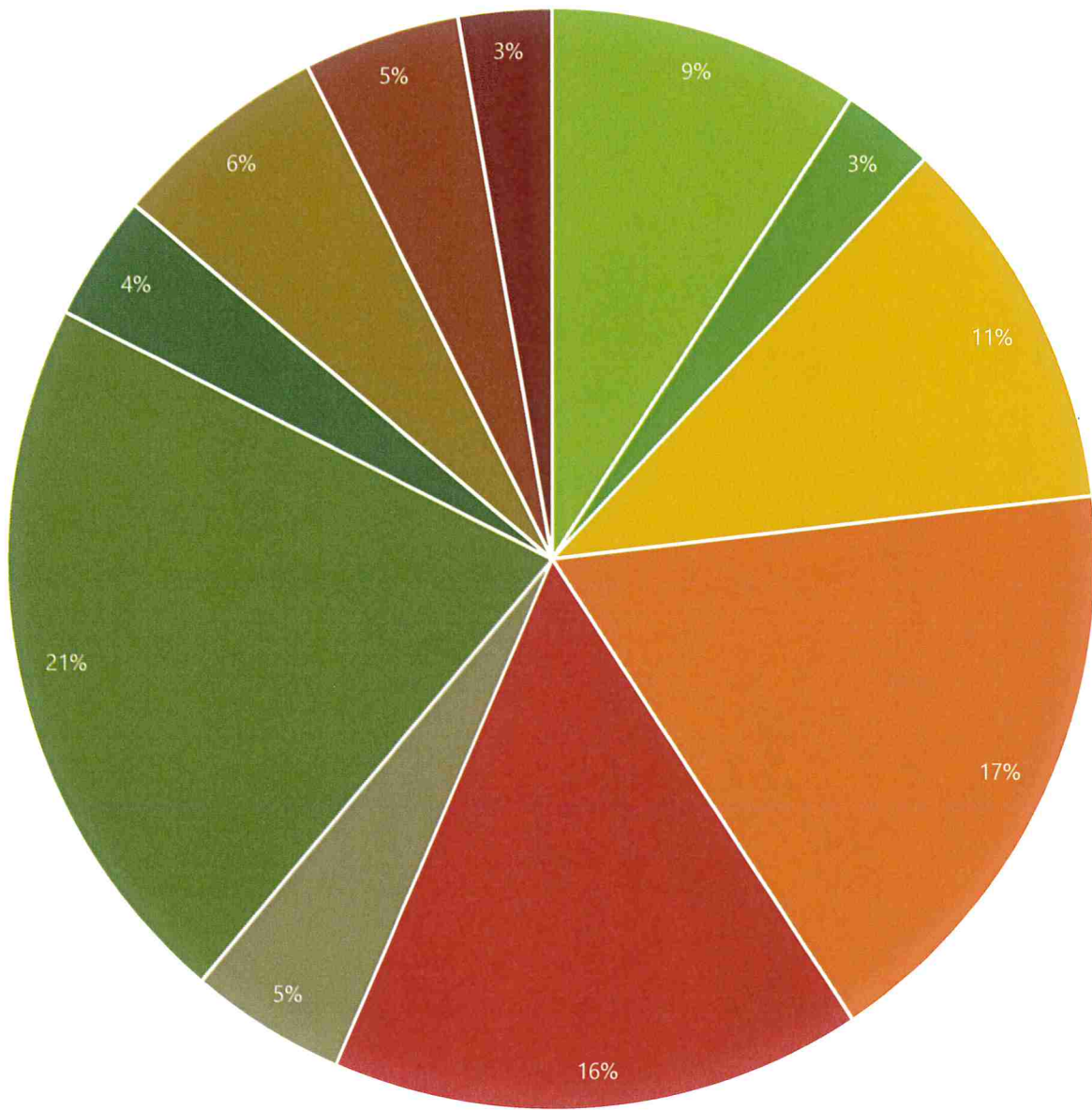
Hours of Operation



Best times to use the library



Learning Goals



■ Access to local, national, and world news

■ Early literacy opportunities

■ Access to adult, teen, and family literacy

■ Lifelong learning opportunities

■ Skills to search, locate and evaluate information effectively

■ Other

■ Business and non profit support

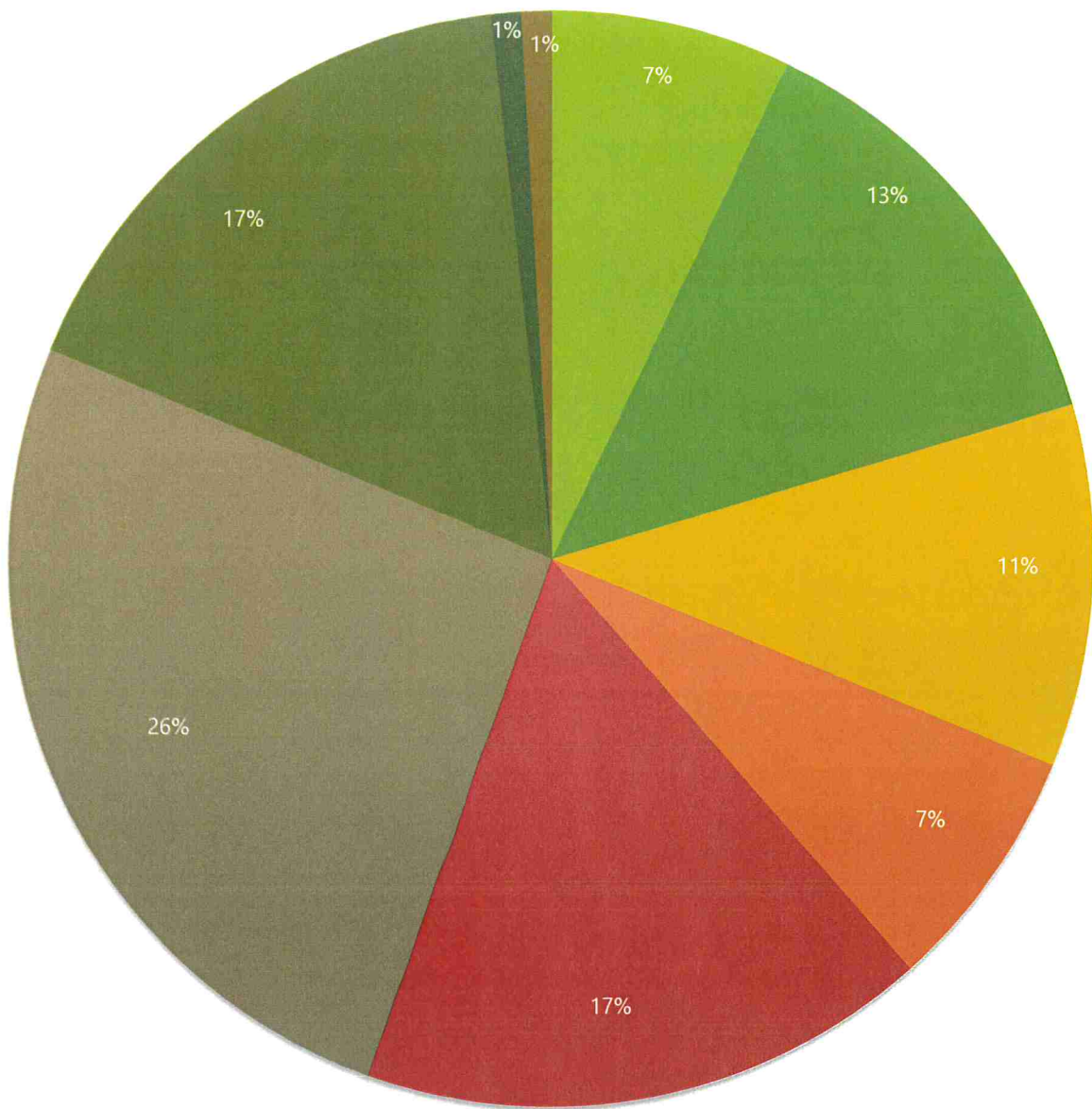
■ Answers for topics of personal interests

■ Job and Career Development

■ Homework Help

■ Not applicable

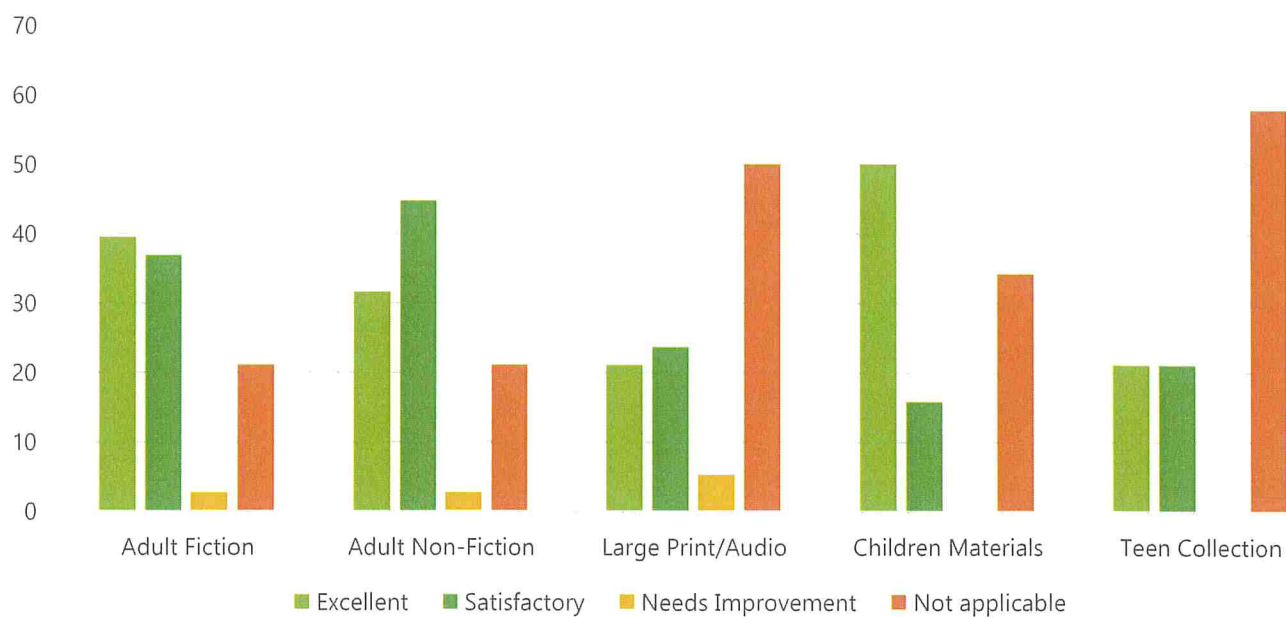
Leisure Goals



- Celebrating diversity and cultural awareness
- Services to provide creative outlets
- Health, finances, and other lifestyle goals
- Comfortable physical and virtual library spaces
- Other

- Genealogy and local history
- Access to community resources and social services
- Reading, watching, and listening for pleasure
- Not applicable

Collection



Programming

